

The claims pending as of entry of this Amendment are as follows:

Claims 1-12: Cancelled.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method for a person in an initiating ~~one~~ vehicle to communicate with a person in a recipient ~~another~~ vehicle, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing at least a first communicator in the ~~an~~ initiating vehicle and in the ~~a~~ recipient vehicle, the communicators being operable over a range of frequencies;
- b) transmitting a control signal from the initiating vehicle, the control signal identifying the transmission frequency that is presently being used for the communication by the person in ~~by the~~ initiating vehicle;
- c) ~~receiving~~ the control signal at the recipient vehicle; and
- d) synchronizing a presently operative transmission frequency in the communicator in the recipient vehicle to coincide with the transmission frequency presently being used by the communicator in the initiating vehicle using the received transmission frequency identified in the control signal.

Claim 14 (original): The method as in claim 13, wherein the communicator in the recipient vehicle monitors transmissions over the operable range of frequencies for a control signal from the initiating vehicle.

Claim 15 (original): The method as in claim 14, wherein the communicator in the recipient vehicle automatically detects the presence of the control signal from the initiating vehicle and provides an indication that another vehicle is seeking to establish communications.

Serial No.: 10/758,749

Art Unit: 2685

Filed: January 13, 2004

Examiner: Pablo N. Tran

Amendment in Response to Office Action mailed on October 12, 2005

Page 2

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 15, including the additional step of permitting the person in the recipient vehicle to respond to the indication by pressing a receive button.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 16, wherein the synchronizing step is responsive to the pressing of the receive button to synchronize the presently operative transmission frequency in the communicator in the recipient vehicle to coincide with the transmission frequency presently being used by the communicator in the initiating vehicle, and wherein the synchronizing step provides communications over a plurality of frequencies free of any dialing, tuning, or manual addressing scheme.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 17, including the additional step of transmitting further control signals between the initiating vehicle and the recipient vehicle.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 18, wherein the further control signals permit further channels for communication to be set.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 19, wherein the further control signals change the communication channels in timed sequence.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 17, wherein the transmission frequency varies in accordance with a spread spectrum frequency hopping technique.

Serial No.: 10/758,749

Art Unit: 2685

Filed: January 13, 2004

Examiner: Pablo N. Tran

Amendment in Response to Office Action mailed on October 12, 2005

Page 3

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 13, wherein the control signal comprises an encoded signal which includes the initiating vehicle's transmit frequency.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 13, including the additional step of transmitting a vehicle identifier in addition to the control signal.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 17, including the additional step of band-pass filtering, between two poles, sounds received at microphones associated with the communicators in each of the initiating vehicle and the receiving vehicle.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 17, wherein the control signal is transmitted in the form of a data packet.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 25, wherein the data packet is transmitted at a frequency included within the range of frequencies.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 17, wherein the step of transmitting the control signal from the initiating vehicle is in response to a manual press of a transmit button in the initiating vehicle.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 13, including the additional steps of notifying any occupants of the recipient vehicle of the receipt of the control signal at the recipient vehicle, and accepting communications between the

Serial No.: 10/758,749

Art Unit: 2685

Filed: January 13, 2004

Examiner: Pablo N. Tran

Amendment in Response to Office Action mailed on October 12, 2005

Page 4

initiating vehicle and the recipient vehicle by performing the synchronizing step in response to the press of a receive button in the recipient vehicle.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method as in claim 13, including the additional step of operating sweep circuitry within the communicators of the initiating vehicle and the receiving vehicle when communications therebetween are terminated.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): An intervehicle communication method that permits communication between one initiating vehicle and a second receiving vehicle, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing at least a first communicator in each of the initiating vehicle and in the recipient vehicle, the communicators being operable to convey audio messages therebetween at a first synchronized frequency;
- b) transmitting a control signal from the initiating vehicle;
- c) receiving the control signal at the recipient vehicle;
- d) changing the transmission frequency of the recipient vehicle in response to the control signal to the first synchronized frequency; and
- e) synchronizing the initiating vehicle to the changed transmission frequency of the recipient vehicle

whereby the communicators are operable to convey audio messages therebetween.

Serial No.: 10/758,749

Art Unit: 2685

Filed: January 13, 2004

Examiner: Pablo N. Tran

Amendment in Response to Office Action mailed on October 12, 2005

Page 5

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A communication system for use in at least two cars, comprising:

- a) a communicator disposed within each car, the communicators being operable to convey (1) audio messages therebetween over any one of a plurality of channels at any given moment and (2) at least one control signal from a first of the at least two cars to a second of the at least two cars to permit the second car to synchronize communications to the channel used by the first car at said any given moment;
- b) a synchronization circuit coupled to each of the communicators, the synchronization circuit being operative to synchronize the communicators to a common, low-noise channel based on any conveyed control signal and independent of any manual setting by the user;
- c) a transmit button in the first car operably configured to cause transmission of, ~~when used, cause at least a first control signal to be transmitted from~~ the first car; and
- d) a receive button in the second car operably configured to set the communicator in the second car to, ~~when used, accept any conveyed the first control signal from the first car and thereby synchronize the communicators to the common, low-noise channel~~ cause the synchronization circuit to operate.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The communication system as in claim 32, wherein the synchronization circuit further comprises sweep circuitry that determines a noise level on each of the plurality of channels, identifies a communication channel having a low-noise level, and causes further control signals to be conveyed to change the communications channel used by the communicators.

Serial No.: 10/758,749

Art Unit: 2685

Filed: January 13, 2004

Examiner: Pablo N. Tran

Amendment in Response to Office Action mailed on October 12, 2005

Page 6